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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fourth Committee (A/45/685 and Corr.1)]

45/30. Question of American Samoa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of American Samoa,

Having examined the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 1/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to American Samoa, in particular General Assembly resolution 44/97 of 11 December 1989,

Conscious of the need to promote progress towards the full implementation of the Declaration in respect of American Samoa,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the United States of America, as the administering Power, 2/

1/ A/45/23 (Part III), chap. IV; and A/45/23 (Part VI) and (Part VI)/Corr.1, chap. IX.

2/ See A/C.4/45/SR.12.

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of the Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of diversifying and strengthening further its economy as a matter of priority in order to promote economic stability,

Noting with grave concern the destruction wrought by cyclone Ofa in February 1990, and, in this respect, noting the speedy emergency assistance provided to the Territory by the administering Power and by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling the dispatch in 1981 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirming the value of sending, at an appropriate time, a further visiting mission to American Samoa,

1. Approves the section of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to American Samoa; 3/

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. Reiterates the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to American Samoa;

4. Reiterates that it is the responsibility of the United States of America, as the administering Power, to create such conditions in the Territory as will enable the people of American Samoa to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV) and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. Reaffirms that it is ultimately for the people of American Samoa themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration, and in that connection reaffirms the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of the Territory of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence;

3/ A/45/23 (Part VI) and (Part VI)/Corr.1, chap. IX, sect. B.14.

6. Also reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of American Samoa, and recommends that priority should be given to the diversification of the Territory's economy in order to provide the foundations for sound social and economic development, to reduce its heavy economic and financial dependence on the United States and to create more employment opportunities for the people of the Territory;

7. Urges the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources;

8. Urges that, because of the destruction wrought by cyclone Ofa, emergency assistance to the Territory be continued;

9. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territory;

10. Urges the administering Power to continue to foster close relations between the Territory and other island communities in the region and to promote co-operation between the territorial Government and regional institutions, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

11. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to American Samoa at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, taking into account, in particular, the wishes of the people of the Territory, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

44th plenary meeting
20 November 1990